

Remarks

Claims 31-38 are currently pending and claims 31, 33, 36, and 38 have been amended. While claims 1-30 have been cancelled, Applicants assert that the cancellation is to be without prejudice and without acquiescence to the current rejection of those claims. Accordingly, it is asserted that these cancelled claims remain eligible for reinstatement in a continuation filing. Applicants assert that all pending claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on December 14, 2004. During the interview, deficiencies in the Bernstein reference were discussed. However, the Examiner introduced a new reference, US Pat 5,272,749, for consideration.

103 Rejections

Claims 31-38 currently stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayduk (US Pat 5,870,452) in view of Bernstein (US Pat 5,583,925). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 31-35

Claims 31 and 33 have been amended to correct matters of form and to further clarify that the retrieval of the telephone number is from a table that contains multiple telephone numbers associated to a given subscriber code where the telephone number to be used is found based on the subscriber code and the originating region (claim 31) or condition (claim 33). It is asserted that such amendments to better place these claims in condition for allowance should be entered after final.

It should be noted that there is no specific discussion of the rejection of claims 31 and 33 in the current Office Action. In particular, there is no discussion as to how Hayduk or Bernstein discloses determining an originating region or a condition under which a call is placed, and then use the originating region or condition in conjunction with the subscription code to determine the proper telephone number for which to

terminate the call. Applicants assert that Hayduk and Bernstein fail to teach any such determinations and use of such additional information when determining the proper telephone number for the subscription code. Therefore, claims 31 and 33, and dependent claims 32, 34, and 35 are allowable over the cited references, singly or in combination, for at least these reasons.

Additionally, the new Masek reference (US Pat 5,272,749) also fails to disclose determining an originating region or condition under which a call is placed and then determining which of multiple telephone numbers for a given subscriber code within a table to use based on the originating region or condition in addition to the subscription code. Instead, Masek assumes that for a given telephone area, there is only one telephone number per subscriber code dialed, such that only the subscriber code is needed to find the proper telephone number. Therefore, claims 31 and 33, and dependent claims 32, 34, and 35 are also allowable over Masek, singly or in combination with the other references, for at least these reasons.

Claims 36-38

Claim 36 has also been amended to correct matters of form and to further clarify that the retrieval of the telephone number is based on the caller choosing a subscriber from the list. It is also asserted that such amendments to better place these claims in condition for allowance should be entered after final.

Claim 36 stands rejected based on a citation to Hayduk (Col. 1, lines 50-61) that allegedly discloses presenting a list of subscribers associated with a subscription code and receiving a telephone number chosen by the caller. Applicants assert that Hayduk, and particularly the noted citation, fails to teach any such list of subscribers being presented to the caller to allow the caller to choose a subscriber after having dialed subscriber code where there are multiple subscribers for the subscriber code. Bernstein and Masek also fail to teach presenting a list of subscribers to be chosen based on the caller having dialed a subscriber code where there are multiple subscribers for the subscriber code. Accordingly, claim 36 and dependent claims 37 and 38 are allowable over the cited references, singly or in combination.

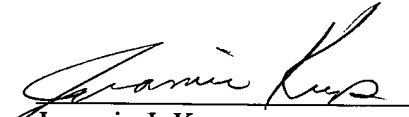
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 31-38 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request entry of the amendments above after final, request reconsideration of all pending claims after final in view of the amendments and remarks above, and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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